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November 30, 2011

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Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 3)
395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Surface Transportation Board, RSTAC small shipper vacancy

231379

Ladies & Gentlemen:

This letter serves as submission of my interest in filling the small shipper vacancy on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC) for a three-year term, beginning immediately upon appointment and ending December 31, 2014.

I am the Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Board of Directors of The Scoular Company, a privately-held marketer of agricultural products. With more than 70 offices and facilities throughout North America, Scoular manages supply chain risk in worldwide feed, food, and renewable fuel markets by buying, selling, storing, handling, and transporting grain and feed and food ingredients.

Scoular, like other small shippers in agribusiness, depends on the U.S. railway system to efficiently transport its products, relying heavily on both covered hopper cars and intermodal containers. During my 30 years with Scoular, I've worked as a grain merchandiser, a merchandising manager, and as a member of our executive leadership team. My experience with rail operations includes merchandising or managing the merchandising of grain for a variety of Scoular facilities, trading freight, managing owned and/or leased rail cars, and working closely with Class I and shortline railroads on various programs and initiatives. All of these experiences have provided me with a thorough understanding of rail operations and of the issues that are important to small shippers and railroads.

In addition to my responsibilities with Scoular, I am a member of the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) and presently serve on NGFA's Arbitration Appeals committee. For the past nine years, I have been a commissioner on the Highway Advisory Commission of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), and in previous years, I was a member of KDOT's Strategic Planning Task Force. I am a past Chairman and past member of the Board of Directors of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association and the Transportation, Elevator, and Grain Merchants Association (TEGMA). I also previously served on the Kansas Governor's Agricultural Advisory Board.

I appreciate your consideration of my interest in serving on RSTAC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles L. Elsea".

Charles L. Elsea
Chief Executive Officer